

# HUS HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2009

## 120 YEARS OF SERVING CHRIST

### *In this issue of the Hus Happenings*



### *Advent-Prepare for His Coming!*

Yes, the advent season is upon us. This is the time of year when the Church celebrates HIS coming! We celebrate by preparing our hearts for this joyous season of Christmas. The word advent is from the Latin language "adventus" meaning *a coming, or arrival*. Hus Church will set aside each Sunday beginning November 29 through December 20 to light the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We will close the advent season on Christmas Eve when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child at our annual Christmas Eve Service from 10 pm till midnight.

In a time in our culture when there seems to be so little to be joyful about we who are Christ Followers are to be the most joyful people on the planet. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are the pillars of our faith since they are all wrapped up in Gods greatest gift to all mankind, JESUS!

Come join us at Hus Church and join in on the celebration. Join us as we usher in this blessed Christmas season. Prepare your heart to receive the Christ child into your heart and experience the divine gifts Hope for the future, Peace of mind and spirit, Joy that goes beyond human understanding and the Love that only Jesus can bring!

Merry Christmas from the Ramos family and the Hus Church family!

*Pastor Mel Ramos*

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

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"At Bethlehem, God demonstrated that to love is to give."



## December Birthdays

- 9 Joe Kurka
- 9 Mikayla Hite
- 11 Jonathan Currie
- 11 Karissa Peal-Klitzka
- 12 Eulalia Johnson
- 12 Ann Barta
- 15 Venda Jaso
- 17 Bill Cabbage
- 17 Amanda Trotman
- 18 Vlasta Fajmon
- 20 Justin Pierce
- 20 Steve Snyder
- 20 Jeri Ramos
- 22 Ruth Halterman
- 23 Ron Wegner
- 25 Bryan Lucke
- 26 Lincoln Currie



## December Anniversaries

- 7 Dan & Melissa Pierce 18
- 7 James & Irene Hutton 52



## Ushers & Greeters



### December 6<sup>th</sup>

Joan Cross and Anne McDill  
Grace Ford and Ruby Warren

### December 13<sup>th</sup>

Marj Nejdil and Marge Pace  
Helen Anderson and Anne McDill

### December 20<sup>th</sup>

Mike and JoAnne Hebert  
Dick and Janet Ransom

### December 27<sup>th</sup>

Bonnie and Alan Tichy  
Diane Van Wyk & Karissa Lockhart

"Whatever the surprises of the future, Jesus will never be surpassed."  
—Ernest Renan



Closings or cancellations will be posted on the Hus website ([www.huschurch.org](http://www.huschurch.org)) and on KCRG, KWWL, and KGAN. Please note that the church website should be the first place to check as it can take the media time to get the information on air and on their websites. **Expect a call from a church representative only if you have requested a personal call.** To request a call, please contact the church office (319.363.0067). If you would like to receive an email notification, please let the office know.

\*The complete policy is available on from the church office or online at [www.huschurch.org](http://www.huschurch.org).



**Miss a sermon?**  
**Listen online at**  
**[www.huschurch.org](http://www.huschurch.org)!**

### No Matter What

Christmas, with all that it means to us, can be a difficult time of year. Why? Because it is one of the few times of the year that many families are able to get everyone to come together and celebrate. Many things can make this difficult. One of those things is trying to work around everyone's schedule. Over time, our families have changed. We grow up, some go off to college, some get married, some have kids, some have jobs that require them to work holidays. Things were so much easier when we were little, weren't they?

Not really. When you are little, not getting the toy you wanted or as was the case many years ago for me, getting a toy you already had. Looking back on that Christmas, it really seems silly. The tantrum I threw in front of my mom's side of the family was not silly in the least. In fact, I am sure I embarrassed my parents to the fullest extent possible. I have long since blocked out the result of that tantrum, but the lesson of accepting something graciously stays with me to this day.

As we get older and have kids of our own, getting the toy we wanted becomes less of a priority. However, getting the right toy for our kids does become the priority. That can be difficult, especially when times are tough when it comes to money. Diane and I have had to have the "money talk" when it comes to presents more than we would care to have. The unexpected response of our wonderful daughters that it was ok and that they understand did make it easier. I could be a pessimist and say that they were just trying to make us feel better, but I really think they understood. We have no idea what we are going to do for our oldest Amanda and our new son-in-law Ryan this year, but Marissa and Karissa just want gift cards to specific stores. To quote Diane, "What is going to be under the tree this year?"

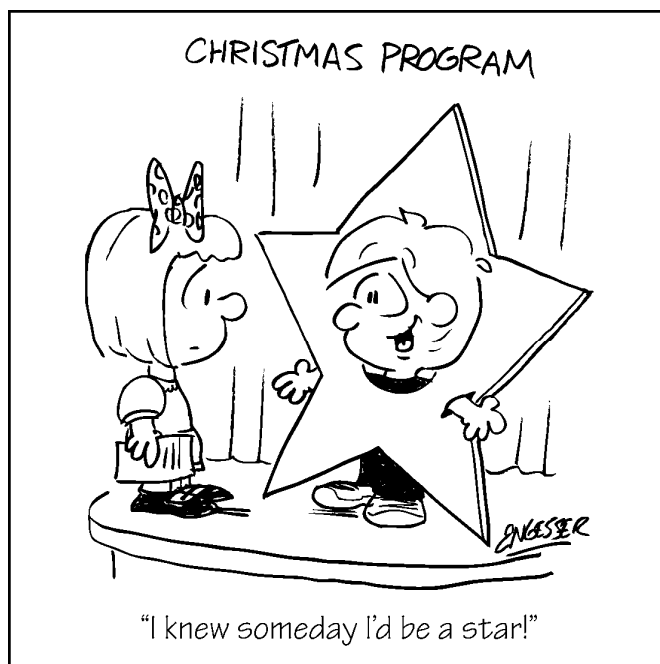
Harder still is dealing with the loss of a loved one. Several of the kids I went to school with are starting to lose their parents. Three have

lost a parent in the last month. I cannot even begin to imagine what they are going through. I find it hard enough losing dear friends from Hus. Holidays are tough!

Yet, no matter what is going on, who is going to make it this year, what the gifts are or who won't be with us because they have gone home to be with the Lord, we have a "reason for the season." God sent Jesus to bring us acceptance, understanding, hope, peace, joy and love. *"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."* (John 3:16-17, The Message)

Be blessed this Christmas,

*Terry*



### ***Adult Readings from the Life Journal - December 2009***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Dec 1</b> Rom. 5-8	<b>Dec 2</b> Rom. 9-12	<b>Dec 3</b> Rom. 13-16	<b>Dec 4</b> Eph. 1-4	<b>Dec 5</b> Eph. 5, 6; Ps. 119:1-80
<b>Dec 6</b> Phil. 1-4	<b>Dec 7</b> Col. 1-4	<b>Dec 8</b> 1 Tim. 1-4	<b>Dec 9</b> 1 Tim. 5, 6; Titus 1-3	<b>Dec 10</b> 2 Tim. 1-4	<b>Dec 11</b> Philem.; Heb. 1-4	<b>Dec 12</b> Heb. 5-8
<b>Dec 13</b> Heb. 9-11	<b>Dec 14</b> Heb. 12, 13; Jude	<b>Dec 15</b> Jas. 1-5	<b>Dec 16</b> 1 Pet. 1-5	<b>Dec 17</b> 2 Pet. 1-3; Jn. 1	<b>Dec 18</b> Jn. 2-4	<b>Dec 19</b> Jn. 5, 6
<b>Dec 20</b> Jn. 7, 8	<b>Dec 21</b> Jn. 9-11	<b>Dec 22</b> Jn. 12-14	<b>Dec 23</b> Jn. 15-18	<b>Dec 24</b> Jn. 19-21	<b>Dec 25</b> 1 Jn. 1-5	<b>Dec 26</b> Ps. 117, 119:81-176; 2 Jn.; 3 Jn.
<b>Dec 27</b> Rev. 1-4	<b>Dec 28</b> Rev. 5-9	<b>Dec 29</b> Rev. 10-14	<b>Dec 30</b> Rev. 15-18	<b>Dec 31</b> Rev. 19-22		

Life journals are available for kids, teens and adults through the church office.

Please call the office for more details.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time, to reflect on and review some of the 'gems' that you have received. Without writing them down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons! And while journaling is a very personal time with the Lord, you may want to share some of your daily journaling with your small group or mentors. Through discussion, you may be able to look deeper into what God is speaking to you, gain new insight and even encourage others.

#### **S for Scripture**

Open your Bible to the reading found under today's date of your Bible bookmark. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

#### **O for Observation**

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Paraphrase and write this scripture down in your own words, in your journal.

#### **A for Application**

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

#### **P for Prayer**

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you wish to place a Memorial/Honorarium for a loved one, please complete the following form and return it to the office. We need the orders **no later than Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. The cost this year is \$8.00. Please provide information for EACH poinsettia that you are purchasing.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial for or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle poinsettia color choice:                      **Red**                      **Pink**                      **White**

Please attach a check made out to Hus Church for \$8.00 for each plant you would like to purchase.

### ***A Prayer for Wolia***

Lord,  
Thank you for watching over Wolia and filling her life with Your love. We pray that she always feels Your presence especially during this Christmas.  
Amen



Please remember to bring \$1 a week to youth group. Not only does it help to provide food, clothing, clean water and an education for Wolia, it also shows her God's love.



Hello everyone,

As many of you know, I will be going on a mission trip to NE India in January 2010 from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be participating in a Healing Festival in the village of Amguri in the state of Assam in the northern region of India. The team consists of myself and three other members.

This region is very isolated and the tribal people are the poorest and considered lower than dirt by most of the Indian population. Their religion is mostly Hindu and holding Christian church services are prohibited. Healing Festivals are permitted though; it's all a choice of the words that you use. We will be the first white people that the tribe has ever seen. My mind cannot comprehend all the signs, wonders, miracles and healings that I will be witness to. God in his perfect timing has placed me with the most awesome mission team who has a true heart for reaching "unreached people". I will be keeping a journal because I know that I will never remember everything that will be happening.

There will be another mission team going to different villages in March. We ask for your prayers before and during these missions. Prayer is a very powerful weapon that is used not only for our teams but also for the mission teams that we will be working with. Through prayer the hearts of the tribal people will be opened to the good news of Jesus and how much he loves them. This will also be shown to them in miracles and healing. God has already declared in signs and visions that the harvest is ripe in NE India and we have been called to minister to these people. We go as servants with the simple message that Jesus loves them more than the 3 million+ Gods that they worship. Pastor Rick Lomabard of Wind and Fire Ministries uses a phrase that is so true. "This is the real deal" and it truly is.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. Through your prayers and support you are all very much a part of this mission trip. The ones who stay at home are just as important as the ones that go. Please remember our family members in your prayers also. We are leaving behind family members and friends that we love very much. They also need your prayers and support.

Blessings!

Wendy Barton



Start your Christmas season off right by sharing the love and joy of Christ with our care center and home bound members. Enjoy the fellowship that caroling always brings! Meet in the Fellowship Hall on December 20th at 1 PM.

# Rotational Sunday School

## Exploring God's World

Hus Church Sunday School is from  
11:00am - 11:45 am each Sunday

***On December 6 we will finish the Isaiah rotation. We will have a month long Christmas break and start back up on January 10<sup>th</sup>.***

We have been preparing for the Advent season by studying some of Isaiah's prophecies about the coming Messiah. Our Key Verse has been:

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

As part of this rotation, we made a Jesse Tree. We invite you to join us in the daily Bible studies that go along with our Jesse Tree:

What is a Jesse Tree? It is a small, leafless tree decorated with symbols portraying Jesus' spiritual heritage. It is a kind of family tree which was suggested by Isaiah's prophecy: "there shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots." The Jesse Tree represents the 4000 years of salvation history when God prepared His people, the Jews, for the coming of the Savior.

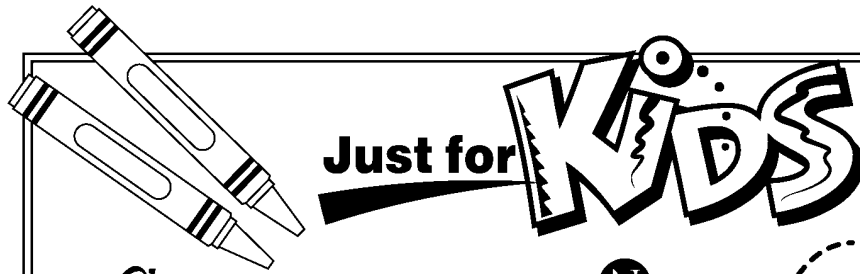
This is the theme of the 4 weeks of Advent. The branch of the tree is a dead one without any green leaves. This symbolizes the fact that the soul is dead without God's grace.

There are ornaments to hang on the tree each day of Advent. When the ornament is placed on the tree the scripture for that day is read.

1. The Jesse Tree:  
*1 Samuel 16:1-13*
2. The Birth of Life:  
*Genesis 1:1-28*
3. Adam and Eve:  
*Genesis 3: 1-24*
4. Noah and the Flood:  
*Genesis 6:11-22 and Genesis 8:6-12*
5. Father Abraham:  
*Genesis 12:1-7 and Genesis 13:2-18*
6. Isaac and the Ram:  
*Genesis 22:1-14*
7. Jacob and his Dream:  
*Genesis 27:41- Genesis 28:22*
8. Symbol of Prophecy:  
*Isaiah 9:2-7*
9. Joseph and his Coat:  
*Genesis 37:1-36*
10. Moses and the Ten Commandments:  
*Exodus 20:1-17*
11. Samuel & the Word of the Lord:  
*1 Samuel 3:1-21*

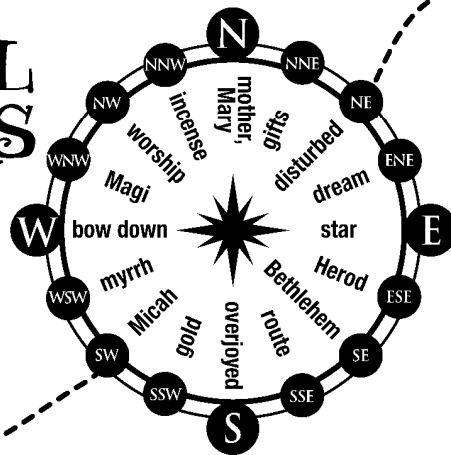
12. David:  
*1 Samuel 16: 14-23*
13. Symbol of Shepherds:  
*Psalms 23*
14. The Wisdom of Solomon:  
*1 Kings 3:3-28*
15. Elijah and the Widow:  
*1 Kings 17:1-16*
16. Elisha and Healing:  
*2 Kings 5:1-27*
17. Isaiah:  
*Isaiah 6:1-8*
18. Nehemiah the Builder:  
*Nehemiah 13:10-22*
19. Angels:  
*Hebrews 1:1-14*
20. Zechariah and Elizabeth:  
*Luke 1:5-25*
21. Virgin Mary:  
*Luke 1:26-38*
22. Magnificat:  
*Luke 1:39-56*
23. Birth of John the Baptist:  
*Luke 1:57-80*
24. Joseph of Nazareth:  
*Matthew 1:18-25*
25. Symbol of Bethlehem:  
*Matthew 2:1-12*
26. The Birth of Jesus:  
*Luke 2:1-20*
27. Christ Our Lord:  
*John 1:1-18*

Taken from:  
[www.stmichaelonline.org](http://www.stmichaelonline.org)



## SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? \_\_\_\_\_ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His \_\_\_\_\_ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? \_\_\_\_\_ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ (SSW)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (NNW) \_\_\_\_\_ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... \_\_\_\_\_ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A \_\_\_\_\_ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another \_\_\_\_\_ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route



## STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

### What you need:














- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

### What you do:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)



# DECEMBER 2009

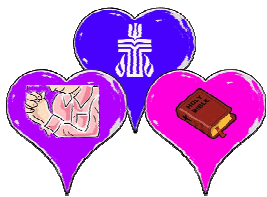
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quilter's - 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM Music Lessons Local 262 - 6 PM	2 Youth Group - 5:30 PM Choir - 7 PM Worship Team - 8:30 PM	3 Stretch class - 9 AM Music Lessons	4 	5 Worship Team at Mission of Hope - 6:30 PM 
6 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Pastor Mel Ramos Teaching Sunday School 11:00 AM Lodge 13 - 11 AM YLT - 12 PM Youth Serving at 1st Pres - 4 PM	7 Music Lessons Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM	8 SOKOL - 8 AM Quilter's - 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM Music Lessons	9 Youth Group - 5:30 PM Choir - 7 PM Worship Team - 8:30 PM	10 Stretch class - 9 AM Music Lessons	11 Dámská - 12 PM 	12 
13 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Pastor Mel Ramos Teaching	14 Music Lessons Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM	15 Quilter's - 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM Music Lessons Session Meeting - 7 PM	16 Youth Group - 5:30 PM Choir - 7 PM Worship Team - 8:30 PM	17 Stretch class - 9 AM Music Lessons	18 	19 
20 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Terry Van Wyk Teaching Caroling - 1 PM 	21 Music Lessons Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM	22 Quilter's - 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM Music Lessons	23 Youth Group - 5:30 PM Choir - 7 PM Worship Team - 8:30 PM	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service - 11 PM 	25 Office Closed Christmas Day 	26 
27 Worship Service - 9:30 AM Karen McCaa Teaching	28 Music Lessons Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM Youth Lock-in (more details to come)	29 Quilter's - 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM Music Lessons	30 Worship Team - 7:15 PM	31 Office Closed New Years Eve 		

# Hus Presbyterian Church

2808 Schaeffer Drive SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2009  
Hus Happenings  
[www.huschurch.org](http://www.huschurch.org)

*120 Years of Serving Christ  
in Cedar Rapids and Eastern Iowa*

*In this issue!*



  
Christmas  
Eve Service



Merry Christmas from the staff of Hus Church